

The Calvin Ball Bulletin

District Two

September 2014 Edition

Welcome!

Now that we are back to school, Fall is just around the corner. While you settle into the school year schedule, I wanted to share some great opportunities to be a part of the fantastic things happening in and around District 2 and Howard County! In this edition, you will find fun, informational events and ways to get involved throughout the summer. I will also be posting updates when available to my FB page so I encourage you to "[Like](#)" me to stay informed or register for updates through

[NotifyMeHoward](#).

Know of any upcoming events you'd like to see highlighted here? Please email me the details to cball@howardcountymd.gov.

If you are not already registered to receive this newsletter, email "subscribe" to cball@howardcountymd.gov and I will be happy to add you to our distribution list!



Dr. Calvin Ball, District 2

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Columbia BikeAbout

Mark your calendars and join Columbia Association's (CA) Columbia Archives for the fun and informative annual Columbia BikeAbout, which will be held on **Saturday, September 13**.

This year's free, family-friendly ride will **begin at 9:30 a.m. at a new location — Wilde Lake Park**. Riders will be able to start up until 10 a.m. and are expected to **complete the ride by 1 p.m.** They will embark on a 10-mile route that winds through the villages of Wilde Lake, Harper's Choice and Hickory Ridge. The route takes them into the neighborhood that James Rouse, Columbia's founder, called home, and then brings them along the stream that feeds Wilde Lake, and then into the Middle Patuxent Valley.

Columbia BikeAbout highlights the history of Columbia, as well as the extensive pathway system and open space that contribute to Columbia's high quality of life. This year's features during the ride include fun facts about Rouse, a look at some of CA's newest improvement projects, and a closer look at the future of Symphony Woods.

The end of the ride will bring a special treat: an old-fashioned picnic hosted at Wilde Lake Park by the Wilde Lake Community Association and CA. Riders will be able to purchase refreshments from a variety of food trucks and enjoy free entertainment.

Pre-registration for the BikeAbout is encouraged. Registration can be done online at BikeAbout.EventBrite.com. For more information, email Columbia.Archives@ColumbiaAssociation.org or call 410-715-6781.



County Government Closings for Labor Day

All county government offices, libraries, courts, animal shelter and the landfill will be closed on **Monday, September 1** in observance of the Labor Day holiday. There will be no trash, recycling or yard waste collection on Monday, and the County's [holiday "slide" schedule](#) will be in effect. Parking meters are not free on Labor Day and all parking regulations and fees are in effect.

The Police, Fire and 9-1-1 Center remain open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. For emergencies, call: 9-1-1; for non-emergency police matters, please call, 410-313-2200. County offices will re-open at regular business hours on **Tuesday, September 2**.

Aging in Place Home Repair Funding!

Since 2005, Columbia Association and the Howard County Office on Aging have partnered to help older adults age in place, providing financial assistance to qualified CA homeowners who cannot otherwise pay for accessibility or repair expenses for their homes. For more information, please see the full news release on CA's website, <http://bit.ly/1iiiVAp>

23rd Annual Police Pace

Howard County Police Foundation will sponsor the 23rd Annual Police Pace 5K Race and 1 Mile Fun Walk & Run on **Sunday, September 7, 8:30 a.m. at Centennial Park South Entrance, 10000 Rt. 108, Ellicott City**, to benefit families of fallen officers; scholarship funds; creation, renovations and maintenance to the Department's Fallen Officers Memorial Garden; after-school programs for at-risk youth; and bicycles for police bike patrols. For more information, contact Sherry Llewellyn, 410-313-2236.

Family & Friends CPR Classes

Howard County Fire and Rescue will be holding free Family & Friends CPR classes from now through the end of the year. Help them fill their seats by reaching out to your own family and friends. Their goal is to have every resident in Howard County learn how to save a life with CPR. Here are dates and times for the next two months and the rest can be found on our [website](#).

Sept 9th, 6-8 pm @ Public Safety Training Center (Marriottsville, MD)

Sept 25th, 6-8 pm @ Gateway government building (Columbia, MD)

Oct 9th, 6-8 pm @ Public Safety Training Center (Marriottsville, MD)

Oct 23rd, 6-8 pm @ Gateway government building (Columbia, MD)

For question or more information, please email handsonlycpr@hcdfrs.org to register for a spot.

Robinson Nature Center 3rd Anniversary Open House

Join the **Robinson Nature Center, 6692 Cedar Lane, Columbia, on Sunday, September 21, from 12:00 to 5:00 p.m.** as it celebrates its 3rd birthday with a special open house featuring live animal presentations, guided nature walks, face-painting and crafts, the opportunity for attendees to explore space in the Center's planetarium, discover the arboretum along the walking trails and check out the Center's Discovery Room. For more information, contact Stacey Yankee, 410-313-0400.

Faith & Workplace Responding to Domestic Violence

On **September 23rd from 9am - 12 pm** at **Baltimore-Washington Conference United Methodist Church Mission Center, 11711 E Market Place, Fulton, MD 20759**, please join HopeWorks and other community partners for a discussion series entitled Faith & Workplace Response to Domestic Violence. The series will address the effects, myths and facts as well as the prevention of relationship violence. This event is free, but preregistration is required! [Click here to register](#)



Oakland Mill Village upcoming events

50+ Fun and Fulfilling Series Debut

Oakland Mills Community Association presents a new series at The Other Barn; 50+ Fun and Fulfilling. They will begin the series with a Coffee and Conversation which includes a presentation by Barbara Kellner, "Columbia – Where We've Been and Where We Are Going." Join fellow 50+ residents to learn and discuss while enjoying coffee and danish on **Tuesday, September 23, 2014, 9:30am** at **The Other Barn, 5851 Robert Oliver Place, Columbia**. Register by calling 410-730-4610 or emailing Brigitta Warren at events@oaklandmills.org.

Jazz in the Mills @ The Other Barn

Jazz in the Mills 2014 Concert Series brings acclaimed Jazz performers to the Other Barn in Oakland Mills. Only two concert dates remain: Sunday, October 5 featuring Ms. Janine Carter and Sunday, December 7 featuring Esther and Davey Yarborough. Jazz in the Mills is held at **The Other Barn, 5851 Robert Oliver Place, Columbia, MD 21045**. All concerts are **from 5pm – 7pm**. Wine, soft drinks and snacks are available for purchase. For more information you can also contact Sandy Cederbaum at manager@oaklandmills.org.

Oakland Mills Cultural Arts Festival

Come out on **October 11, 2014 11am – 4pm** for an afternoon of live music, children's performers, crafts, festival food, health screenings, local talent, and a variety of craft vendors at the Oakland Mills Village Center, 5851 Robert Oliver Place, Columbia. For more information, call 410-730-4610 or email events@oaklandmills.org.

Long Reach Village upcoming events

Long Reach Flea Market

On Saturday, September 20, 2014 from 8 am - 12 noon come to the Long Reach Village Center for a fantastic opportunity to sell your treasures. The cost is \$20 per space. You can stop by Stonehouse or call 410-730-8113 for more info.

Please Note: This event is NOT open to commercial vendors, political causes/candidates. Promotional/informational materials may NOT be distributed.

Village-Wide Yard Sale

On October 18, 2014, there will be a Village-Wide yard sale. You can call or stop by Stonehouse to sign up by October 8. There is no charge to sign up and they will list your street in the Columbia Flier ad. They will also give you a ribbon to tie on your street sign. For more information and to sign up, call 410-730-8113.

Save the Date - 50+ Expo!

On **October 17th 9am-4pm**, join the County's Department of Citizen Services for the 16th annual 50+EXPO at **Wilde Lake High School, 5460 Trumpeter Road, Columbia**. Geared towards adults age 50 and older, caregivers, family members and health care professionals, the EXPO features over exhibitors, life-enriching workshops and healthy aging seminars, a living green fair, great food and all day entertainment. Stay tuned to www.howardcountygaging.org/50plusexpo for more information or call 410-313-6410.



Homeless Gazette!

As an elected official and advocate to end homelessness, I'm thrilled to partner with the Route 1 Day Resource Center to put on the Hope for Homeless 5k. I'd like to share with you the Homeless Gazette which highlights stories and touching information from clients of the Day Center that I hope you find inspiring. I hope you will consider contributing to the Day Center and to their cause in their future. You can find the latest **August 2014** edition [here](#) and view the archive editions [here](#). Here is a [list](#) of their needs if you're able to donate.

Farmer's Market in Oakland Mills!



Buy fresh and local! Howard County Farmer's Markets in Oakland Mills is now open for the summer. Come out on **Sundays 9am-1pm at the Oakland Mills Village Center, 5851 Robert Oliver Place, Columbia** to enjoy products from vendors like The Cosmic Coffee Bean Company, Great Harvest Bread Co., Lewis Orchards, and many more.

The Farmer's Market provides residents with a one-stop shop for locally grown, raised, and prepared foods and plants.

For more information or other locations, visit <http://howardcountyfarmersmarkets.com/index.html>.

Calling All Youth and Teens!

Get involved and be a part of the solution. Have fun and make new friends! Columbia Association's Teen and Middle School Advisory Committee is now seeking young individuals to attend monthly meetings and help get involved in their community by planning, organizing and implementing positive programs and activities for their peers.

High School Students (Ages 13-19) and Middle School Students (Ages 11-13) are invited to call **410-992-3726** or email CATeens@ColumbiaAssociation.org to sign-up. Meetings are the third Thursday of the month 6:30-8pm at the Youth & Teen Center & The Barn in the **Village of Oakland Mills, 5853 Robert Oliver Place** in Columbia.

Free Financial Coaching!

A new program, MyBudgetCoach, was launched in Howard County by MakingChange in partnership with [Maryland CASH Campaign](#) and helps working families and individuals improve their ability to budget and make well-informed financial decisions. Understanding the importance of budgeting is generally recognized as the first step in successful financial planning. Participants meet with a trained volunteer coach once a month for 12 monthly sessions. Budgeting techniques, financial management and goal attainment strategies are included. Participants and coaches use on-line tools to track progress in real-time.

Contact the MyBudgetCoach Relationship Manager, **Leslie Petak**, at petakl@makingchangecenter.org if you are interested in participating in the program. MakingChange provides group seminars and personal coaching to teach people to manage their money and change their lives. Its programs are offered in schools, human service agencies and businesses. For more information, visit www.makingchangecenter.org.

Medicare Patients – Looking for a Local Doctor!

The Medicare.gov site is the place to find information about Medicare. The webpage provides detailed information about the basics of Medicare, resources, preventative health care and much more. If you're looking for a local doctor who accepts Medicare, click [here](#). Fill in your zip code and any preferences you might have and you will instantly be given a list of providers in your area! For more info, call **1-800-MEDICARE**.

Avoid Healthcare Scams!

The Howard County Department of Citizen Services is warning both Medicare recipients and residents who qualify for health coverage through the new health care exchanges of misleading and sometimes illegal offers of help that are cropping up in Howard County. The Department has already received several reports of misleading and illegal conduct related to both Medicare open enrollment and enrollment for health coverage under the federal Affordable Care Act.

The Office on Aging's "Avoiding Medicare Scams and Frauds" fact sheet, available at www.howardcountymd.gov/avoidmedicarefraud.htm, provides info on this and other Medicare provisions designed to protect consumers from misleading sales practices. Consumers can also call the County's State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) office at **410-313-7392** to report suspicious health insurance offers and/or to receive free and unbiased help in deciding what, if any, supplemental insurance programs are right for them.

In addition, the County's Office of Consumer Affairs recently received an e-mail from an insurance agent offering to help people "obtain affordable health insurance." This e-mail, however, implied that unless consumers sign up for coverage by January 1, 2014 they will be charged a penalty. In fact, penalties will not be assessed until the end of the enrollment period on March 31, 2014. Certified navigators are prohibited from charging for their services and from offering private insurance products while helping clients enroll with an exchange.

The Office of Consumer Affairs' "Avoiding ID Theft and Fraud in the New Health Insurance Marketplace" fact sheet, available at www.howardcountymd.gov/avoidIDtheftfraud.htm, provides consumers with tips on avoiding scams and dispels misconceptions people may have about obtaining coverage from the Maryland health exchanges. Consumers who receive suspicious offers of help to enroll in the exchanges can contact the Office of Consumer Affairs at **410-313-6420**.

Exciting Youth Opportunities to Stay Active and Involved!

One of my missions is to provide awareness of programs within Howard County that provide a positive outlet for our youth. This allows them to channel their inner talent and participate in positive activities. Listed below you will find helpful links for parents and youth.

4H Club: For youth grades 3+. Meets **2nd Friday of the month** at The Other Barn **3:30-5pm**. Call **410-992-3726** for more info

Art Attack: Creative after-school enrichment program from the Columbia Art Center. Meets **1st and 2nd Mondays**.

Registration/Fees may apply. Call **410-992-3726**.

Columbia Teen Center **410-992-3726**

Howard County Library www.hclibrary.org/index.php?page=22

Voices For Change <http://hcv4c.org/> or email MMekelburg7@verizon.net

I encourage you to share this information with friends, families, neighbors and most importantly, your children.

Make a Difference in a Student's Life... A-Ok Mentors Needed!

A-OK (Assist Our Kids) Mentoring-Tutoring, Inc. is now recruiting adult volunteers to be mentor-tutors to HCPSS students who need extra support and encouragement to succeed. Volunteers meet with students individually or in small groups, during the school day and in after school programs. A-OK seeks dependable community members who can commit to one hour/week for one school year.

Participating elementary schools are: Atholton, Bryant Woods, Cradlerock, Deep Run, Forest Ridge, Guilford, Longfellow, Phelps Luck, Running Brook and Stevens Forest. There are also limited opportunities to meet with older students. For more info, call Chaya Kaplan at aokmentor@gmail.com or call **410-730-6030**.

"Your Local Career Connection" Helps in Your Search For Employment!

Howard County's Office of Workforce Development is here for you! The center is geared towards meeting the workforce and employment needs of businesses and job seekers in the 21st century labor market. They provide companies and individuals ranging from professional, technical and managerial to entry level. It offers residents a variety of tools to aid in a job search. The full service center is equipped with computers, fax machines, telephones, internet access and copiers – all to assist you with your employment search. Customized recruitment events are held for businesses and space is available to use for interviewing. For more details, click [here](#) or call **410-290-2620**. The calendar of events is [online](#).

Financial Assistance Corner

We are experiencing an unprecedented economic recession and while Howard County may be consistently identified as one of the wealthiest counties in the United States, our residents and families are feeling the squeeze of this economic crisis. I receive a lot of calls to my office asking for referrals and county assistance so I wanted to take a moment and dedicate a section in my Newsletter identifying resources to help our residents save money.

TAX CREDITS: The most quick and efficient way to reduce your expenses is to consider the tax credits available to you as Howard County residents. For your convenience, I have listed examples below as well as their respective online application; however you can find a complete list and instructions on how to apply at <http://countyofhowardmd.us/Services.aspx?id=6442458618> or by calling 410-313-4076. Please note that some of these credits are based upon fund availability, so please contact the office directly for the most up-to-date information.

Livable Home Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Senior Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=1492>

Homeowners Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=1558>

Homestead Tax Credit: <http://www.dat.state.md.us/sdatweb/homestead.html>

Energy Conservation Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442455147>

Daycare Provider Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Amateur Sports Athletic Fields Property Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Surviving Spouse of Fallen Law Enforcement Officer or Rescue Worker: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Community Associations Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Renovation of Historic Property Tax Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Trash Collection Fee Credit: <http://countyofhowardmd.us/DisplayPrimary.aspx?id=6442460435>

Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Residents 62 and Older!

The Howard County Office on Aging, through Maryland Access Point (MAP), is offering Reverse Mortgage Counseling to Maryland residents ages 62 and older who are considering this as an option. The counseling is targeted to seniors who may be able to pay for their everyday expenses but are struggling to cover the costs of health care, home repairs and modifications, increased property taxes and other unexpected expenses.

To schedule a counseling session or learn more about the costs and features of a reverse mortgage, call MAP of Howard County's toll free number: 1-800-506-5806.

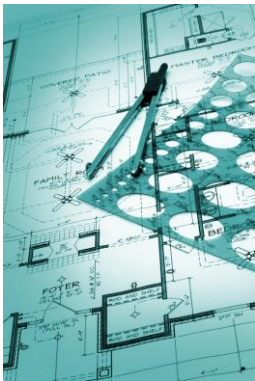
In Need of Crisis Intervention?

Grassroots is a private, non-profit agency serving Howard County and Central Maryland which empowers people in crisis to make positive changes by offering professional 24-hour crisis intervention, shelter and outreach services.

Grassroots provides programs and services including a 24-hour crisis intervention hotline, Maryland Crisis Hotline, Walk-in Counseling, Mobile Crisis Team, Suicide Prevention, outreach and education, a 33-bed Family Shelter, an 18-bed Men's Shelter, a Motel Shelter, Cold Weather Shelter and Day Resource Center.

Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center, Inc. is located at 6700 Freetown Road, Columbia, MD 21044. For more information, please call 410-531-6006 or visit their website online at www.grassrootscrisis.org. The 24-hour line is 410-531-6677 and the MD Crisis Hotline is 1-800-422-0009.

MD Housing Rehabilitation Program for Homeowners!



HC Housing is accepting applications for the MD Housing Rehabilitation Program for Single Family (MHRP-SF). Applications are available at Housing's office in the **Gateway Building, 6751 Columbia Gateway Drive, 3rd floor** in Columbia.

MHRP-SF is a housing rehabilitation program that preserves and improves single family properties with an emphasis on bringing eligible properties into compliance with applicable building codes and standards. It's designed to address priority home maintenance items, such as: correcting exterior or interior deficiencies; making accessibility modifications; correcting health and safety violations; improving the homes weatherization and energy conservation; and correcting lead-based paint violations. General improvements, such as small home additions, alterations and carpeting, fences and landscaping, and kitchen, bathroom and closet remodeling, may be considered for financing as well, if all priority home maintenance items are in good condition or have been previously renovated. Swimming pools and recreational facilities are considered luxury items and not eligible.

For more information, contact **Deborah Gillen** at 410-313-3508 DGillen@howardcountymd.gov.

Howard County Safety... Helpful Hints!

- Experiencing an Emergency? Dial 9-1-1
- Want to report an incident, non-emergency? Call 410-313-2200
- Need to report drug activity? Call 410-290-3784 or email ACunningham@howardcountymd.gov
- Want to make an anonymous tip (e.g. child abuse, violence, gangs, gambling, school incidents, underage drinking, damage to property etc.)? Call 410-313-7867 or email GangTips@howardcountymd.gov
- Want to report gun crimes? Call 410-313-7867 or email CToler@howardcountymd.gov.
- Do you need Victim Assistance? Call 410-313-3712 or email KMasterson@howardcountymd.gov
- Interested in a FREE Home Security Survey? Call 410-313-4795 and leave a message to make an appointment. For more info, call the Special Operations Bureau at 410-313-3758 or visit <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/aboutpolice.htm>
- Want to start a Neighborhood Watch? Call the Community Services Section at 410-313-4780.
- Looking to prevent Auto Theft? Helpful tips available at <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/departments.aspx?ID=6442451452>
- Want to report an animal cruelty incidence or report unwanted pets, endangered animals, etc.? Call 410-313-2780, email animalcontrol@howardcountymd.gov or visit <http://www.howardcountymd.gov/animalcontrol.htm>
- Are speeders in your neighborhood? Consider the SMART Program initiative. Info available at www.co.ho.md.us/Police/pd_smartprogram.htm
- Interested in a Police Ride-Along? Call 410-313-2208 for an application
- Need a HCPD Spanish line? Call 410-313-7807.
- Interested in volunteering with the HCPD? Call 410-313-2255
- Interesting in HCPD Recruitment? Call 410-313-4273.

Alzheimer's Support Groups in Howard County!

Howard County proudly offers several Alzheimer's Support Groups at various locations throughout the County during days and times that are geared at accommodating the needs of those impacted by Alzheimer's. Pre-screening is required. For support group locations in Howard County, click [here](#). For more information on the Alzheimer's Association, call 1-800-272-3900 or visit www.alz.org/maryland.

"Guaranteed Ride Home" Comes to Howard County!

A program that gives a **FREE** ride home to commuters who travel to work via mass transit, car-pooling or walking at least twice a week is coming to Howard County. "Guaranteed Ride Home" offers regular commuters a free ride home in a taxi or rental car up to four times a year and is funded by the Maryland Department of Transportation.

To be eligible to participate in the program, commuters must register [online](#) or call 1-800-745-RIDE (7433).



Start a Neighborhood Watch Program in Your Community!

The Neighborhood Watch Program involves the joint efforts of the Howard County Police Department and the community which is designed to enhance neighborhood security, heighten the community's power of observation and encourage mutual assistance and concern among neighbors.

For more information, please contact the Howard County Police Department at 410-313-2200.

Foreign Born Information and Referral Network!

The Foreign Born Information and Referral Network, 5999 Harpers Farm Road, Suite 200-E in Columbia needs Spanish-speaking volunteers to greet clients, answer basic questions, make appointments and support the staff. Hours are **9am-1pm or 1-5pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday**. Other times may be considered. For more information, call 410-992-1923 x 14.

Recycling... Do's And Don'ts!

Ever wondered what is considered recyclable and what is not? You may be surprised to find out. For a complete list, click [here](#) or call 410-313-6444. If it snows on your recycling day and recycling has been cancelled for the day, recyclables may be picked up on a slide schedule. For the most up-to-date information, call 410-313-7678 or go [online](#).

Give the Gift of Independence!

Neighbor Ride launched its volunteer-based transportation service in 2004 with the mission to decrease isolation and improve the quality of life for Howard County's older residents. Today, its dedicated volunteers provide an average of 1,000 trips per month for medical appointments, shopping, social outings, personal care and business, religious services, volunteer activities and other day-to-day needs.

YOU can give seniors the gift of independence by volunteering as a Neighbor Ride driver. Flexible and rewarding daytime, evening and weekend opportunities are available. No set schedule is required. Drivers simply choose to provide rides that are convenient to their homes, offices and daily routines. Parent volunteers are welcome and encouraged to bring their children along for a wonderful experience. Please contact **Patrice Cerwonka, Colleen Konstanzer or Rosemary Noble** at **410-884-RIDE (7433)** or email volunteer@neighborride.org for more information.

Transparency in Our Government!

If you believe there has been an instance of fraud, waste, and/or abuse in our government, we want to hear from you! Allegations of Fraud, Waste and Abuse in Howard County Government should be submitted to the Howard County Auditor's Office. All submittals are encrypted and password protected for security. We treat all allegations in a confidential matter and we'll do our very best to safeguard your identity!

To report an allegation, visit <http://cc.howardcountymd.gov/Auditor/Online-Form-to-Report-Fraud-Waste-and-Abuse>. If you do not wish to disclose your identity, you may remain anonymous; however, you should be aware that remaining anonymous may preclude a thorough investigation of your allegation due to insufficient information.

For more information, email hcaudit@howardcountymd.gov or call **410-313-2005**.

View the Council's Current Legislation and Calendar and Stay Informed!

The County Council is responsible for adopting laws within Howard County. The legislative progress generally follows a monthly cycle. A calendar of upcoming meetings can be found [online](#).

I Want to Hear From You!

This is your opportunity to stay informed and get involved! Your comments are always welcome as the County Council reviews legislation. You may testify in person or simply submit your testimony by email to Councilmail@howardcountymd.gov or fax **410-313-3297**.

All legislative public hearings will take place in the **Board of Education, Board Room A, 10910 Route 108, Ellicott City, MD 21042**.

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"Unity is strength... when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved"
~ **Mattie Stepanek**